IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Continuous method for producing a printed retroreflective material for making articles of clothing, said articles of clothing having a minimum coefficient of retro-reflection (cd/1x.m^2) indicated by European Standard EN 471/1994 (related to high visibility warning clothing) and/or EN 13356/2001 (related to visibility accessories for non-professional use), said method comprising:

(a) providing a carrier sheet with an adhesive on the carrier, thereby forming a support layer;

(b) partially embedding onto the adhesive a monolayer of transparent glass microspheres having a refractive index between about 1.4 and about 2.7, to a depth between about 35-40 percent of their average diameter, thereby forming a web material;

(c) coating a thin layer of a two-component polyurethane resin onto unembedded surfaces of said transparent glass microspheres;

(d) applying a specularly reflective mirror of aluminum by vacuum deposition onto said thin layer;

(e) printing a non-etchable transfer pattern onto the aluminum layer, thereby forming a transfer image;

(f) passing said web material through a demetallization bath of sodium hydroxide and a washing station to remove etchable, non-protected surface and drying the web;

(g) applying, by a vacuum process, two layers of dielectric mirror;

(h) coating a polyurethane binder layer and ~~laminate~~ laminating with a textile base;

(i) stripping away the support layer.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier sheet has an heat-softenable adhesive layer on the carrier.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier sheet is an auto-adhesive layer supported by a polymer backing.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the polyurethane resin is a reaction product of a polyester polyol having a number molecular weight of at least 2,000 and a polyisocyanate.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 4, wherein the dry polyurethane resin on the glass microspheres is less than about 3 g/sqm of dry substance.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the polyurethane resin used for coating the web material is a water-dispersion and the curing agent is an aliphatic polyisocyanate.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the polyurethane resin used for coating the web

material is a polyester polyurethane polyol polymer in solvent and the curing agent is an aromatic polyisocyanate or a mixture of polyisocyanate with melamine resin.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim [[1]] 14, wherein the ~~transfer image~~ heat transfer film used for printing the coated microspheres is made with a resin non-etchable by NaOH.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 8, wherein the resin is a thermoplastic resin and is a polyurethane, a polyamide or a polyacrylic polymer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 9, wherein the resin is supported on a base which is a release paper, a polypropylene or polyester foil.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 10, wherein the base is a polypropylene printed film.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent dielectric mirror is a layer of aluminum sodium fluoride (Na_3A1F_6) overlaid by a layer of zinc sulfide (ZnS).

Claim 14 (New): Continuous method for producing a printed retroreflective material for making articles of clothing, said articles of clothing having a minimum coefficient of retro-reflection (cd/1x.m^2) indicated by European Standard EN 471/1994 (related to high visibility warning clothing) and/or EN 13356/2001 (related to visibility accessories for non-professional use), said method comprising:

(a) providing a carrier sheet with an adhesive on the carrier, thereby forming a support layer;

(b) partially embedding onto the adhesive a monolayer of transparent glass microspheres having a refractive index between about 1.4 and about 2.7, to a depth between about 35-40 percent of their average diameter, thereby forming a web material;

(c) coating a thin layer of a two-component polyurethane resin onto unembedded surfaces of said transparent glass microspheres;

(d) applying a specularly reflective mirror of aluminum by vacuum deposition onto said thin layer;

(e') printing a non-etchable transfer pattern onto the aluminum layer using a heat transfer printing film;

(f') passing said web material through a demetallization bath of sodium hydroxide;

(g) applying, by a vacuum process, two layers of dielectric mirror;

(h) coating a polyurethane binder layer and laminating with a textile base;

(i) stripping away the support layer.

Claim 15 (New): Continuous method for producing a printed retroreflective material for making articles of clothing, said articles of clothing having a minimum coefficient of retro-reflection (cd/1x.m^2) indicated by European Standard EN 471/1994 (related to high

visibility warning clothing) and/or EN 13356/2001 (related to visibility accessories for non-professional use), said method comprising:

(a) providing a carrier sheet with an adhesive on the carrier, thereby forming a support layer;

(b) partially embedding onto the adhesive a monolayer of transparent glass microspheres having a refractive index between about 1.4 and about 2.7, to a depth between about 35-40 percent of their average diameter, thereby forming a web material;

(c) coating a thin layer of a two-component polyurethane resin onto unembedded surfaces of said transparent glass microspheres;

(d) applying a specularly reflective mirror of aluminum by vacuum deposition onto said thin layer;

(e") selectively exposing the aluminum layer to a demetallizing solution using a screen printing machine;

(g) applying, by a vacuum process, two layers of dielectric mirror;

(h) coating a polyurethane binder layer and laminating with a textile base;

(i) stripping away the support layer.